

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1095

Introduced by Assembly Member Corbett

February 20, 2003

An act to add Section 70394 to the Government Code, relating to libraries.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1095, as amended, Corbett. County law libraries.

Existing law specifies the various duties of the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts, and provides for the establishment of county law libraries.

This bill would require the Judicial Council to establish a task force on county law libraries, consisting of 3 representatives from the judicial branch of government selected by the Administrative Director of the Courts, 3 representatives of the counties selected by the California State Association of Counties, and 3 county law library administrators selected by the Council of California County Law Librarians. The bill would require the task force to identify the needs related to county law library operations and facilities, make recommendations for funding county law library operations, facility improvements, and expansion, and submit its report and recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2005. The bill would also

provide that the costs of the task force be at Judicial Council~~and~~, county, *and county law librarians'* expense, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

2 (a) County law libraries are a vital adjunct to the state judicial
3 system, providing many individuals with an opportunity to readily
4 access essential legal documents and publications.

5 (b) The fiscal health of county law libraries, and the ability of
6 county law libraries to provide adequate, up-to-date publications
7 and services, have a considerable impact on the quality of justice
8 dispensed to citizens of California.

9 (c) For many individuals, the county law libraries represent the
10 most accessible and affordable option for access to legal
11 documents and publications.

12 (d) Many county law libraries are not able to acquire and
13 maintain current publications and electronic access to pertinent
14 materials, nor are they able to hire necessary staff. The current
15 funding structure does not allow for adequate financial planning
16 and falls substantially short of meeting necessary expenditures.

17 (e) Current revenues appear to be insufficient to provide the
18 funding necessary to adequately finance the acquisition of
19 equipment, publications, and staff for county law libraries.

20 (f) The counties of California are neither required nor able to
21 provide county law libraries with additional support to offset or
22 moderate the financial difficulties encountered by county law
23 libraries throughout the state.

24 SEC. 2. Section 70394 is added to the Government Code, to
25 read:

26 70394. (a) The Judicial Council shall establish a task force on
27 county law libraries. The task force is charged with identifying the
28 needs related to county law library operations and facilities, and
29 identifying and making recommendations for funding county law
30 library operations, facility improvements, and expansion.

31 (b) The task force shall consist of three representatives from the
32 judicial branch of government, as selected by the Administrative
33 Director of the Courts, three representatives of the counties, as

1 selected by the California State Association of Counties, and three
2 county law library administrators, as selected by the Council of
3 California County Law Librarians. The Administrative Director
4 of the Courts shall designate one of these representatives as
5 chairperson of the task force.

6 (c) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff
7 support for the task force and shall develop guidelines for
8 procedures and practices for the task force.

9 (d) The duties of the task force shall include all of the
10 following:

11 (1) Review the state of existing county law libraries.

12 (2) Examine existing standards for county law library
13 operations.

14 (3) Document the funding mechanisms currently available for
15 the maintenance and operation of county law library facilities.

16 (4) Recommend funding sources and financing mechanisms
17 for support of county law library operations and facility
18 maintenance.

19 (e) The task force shall be appointed on or before March 1,
20 2004. The task force shall submit its report and recommendations
21 to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on or before January 1,
22 2005.

23 (f) The Judicial Council shall implement this section using
24 existing resources. Any costs for counties and county law
25 librarians to assist in the implementation of this section shall be ~~at~~
26 ~~county expense.~~ *at county or county law librarians' expense,*
27 *respectively.*

